

Amendments to the Specification:

The Examiner objected to the following informalities:

Line 10 of page 5 has a typographical error, in which the term “thos” should be corrected to mean “those.”

Line 10 of page 10 also contains a typographical error, in which term “Interner” should be corrected to “Internet.”

Applicant submits the following replacement paragraphs.

At Page 5, lines 4 – 13, please insert the following replacement paragraph:

Additionally, U.S. Patent 6,088,360 ('360) which relates to video multiplexers is a video multiplexer which incorporates a dynamic rate control feature in which MPEG encoded video signals for each channel are stored in a first-in first-out (FIFO) buffer. A packetizer for each channel detects the level in the FIFO buffer and issues a request signal to the video multiplexer that the channel desires to transmit the video signals on the network. The patent discloses the use of tokens to provide greater network access to those channels ~~thes channels~~ which require a higher bandwidth. The patent states that by not polling the various channels, but instead sending grant to packetizers with tokens, there is less overhead in the system. This patent is limited to video applications and does not describe ~~not described~~ data and voice communications.

At Page 10, lines 8 – 17, please insert the following replacement paragraph:

The digital headend 100 communicates with a Network Operation Center 102, and receives satellite 104 and off-the-air ~~and of the air~~ 106 transmissions. Additionally, the digital headend 100 communicates with an Internet portal ~~Internet portal~~ and with a local telephone company 110 and provides long distance 112 services. It shall be appreciated that the term “video” refers to video signals or video control signals which are communicated by the network operations center 102, satellite 104 and off-the-air 106 transmission. The term “data” refers to the use of the TCP/IP protocol for the communications of Internet, World Wide Web, and any other such communications systems using the TCP/IP protocol. The term “voice” refers to telephony systems and includes IP type telephony systems as well as conventional switched telephony systems.